

437

**Congress of the United States**  
Washington, DC 20515

May 25, 2017

The Honorable Ajit Pai  
Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Pai:

We write to call to your attention a matter of importance to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, which will soon be considered by the Federal Communication Commission (FCC). As you may know, on April 19, the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (PaPUC) and the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development (PaDCED), jointly filed a petition requesting the FCC modify its recently announced Connect America Fund Phase II (CAF II) auction formula.

The FCC's decision will determine whether approximately \$140 million in funding originally designated for Pennsylvania will be spent in the state to help expand broadband access and services to underserved rural and high cost communities or whether the funding will be redistributed elsewhere. The PaPUC - PaDCED Joint Petition from April 19 requests that the FCC reconsider certain aspects of its Connect America Fund Phase II auction rules and narrowly modify or waive rules to ensure the effectiveness, efficiency, and fairness of the auction rules for Pennsylvania. We write to have these essential funds remain in Pennsylvania.

The funding provided through the Connect America Fund is crucial to Pennsylvania, which has long committed to the deployment of broadband access networks and services. Approximately 25 percent of Pennsylvania residents throughout 17 of our 67 counties do not have access to high-speed broadband capability. While Pennsylvania is committed to the improved deployment of broadband access networks and services, this level of disconnect is unacceptable as connectivity is an increasingly essential aspect to education, employment, and the economic development of our residents. In addition, Pennsylvania consumers have long been a major net contributor to Federal Universal Service Fund (USF) programs, consistently ranking fifth in the United States in terms of net USF payments. The FCC's Universal Service Monitoring Report notes that, during the period of 2005 to 2016, Pennsylvania's net contribution to the federal USF totaled in excess of \$1.7 billion dollars.

Without action, Pennsylvania consumers stand to lose substantial federal funding as a result of CAF II money being declined by the Verizon incumbent local exchange carriers operating in Pennsylvania. The declined amount equals approximately \$23 million annually over a six-year period, which accounts for 46% of the total CAF II allotment to the state. In the absence of an FCC decision to the contrary, these funds may potentially be reallocated to a different state.

Losing almost half of the CAF II funding would create an unfair hardship on Pennsylvania residents in rural and high-costs areas, and would be contrary to the FCC's goal of ensuring broadband access for all. We are asking that the FCC take into consideration the gravity and

importance of this issue to Pennsylvania, and the sizeable impact losing this CAF II funding would have on our more rural and underserved areas of the commonwealth.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

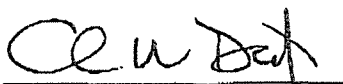
Sincerely,



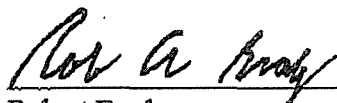
Lou Barletta  
Member of Congress



Patrick Meehan  
Member of Congress



Charles W. Dent  
Member of Congress



Robert Brady  
Member of Congress



Glenn 'GT' Thompson  
Member of Congress



OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

June 29, 2017

The Honorable Robert A. Brady  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2004 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

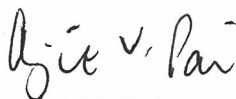
Dear Congressman Brady:

Thank you for your letter in support of a petition for reconsideration filed by the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission and the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development, which requests a modification to the Connect American Fund (CAF) Phase II competitive bidding process rules. Your views are very important and will be entered into the record of the proceeding and considered as part of the Commission's review.

The Commission's Wireline Competition Bureau (WCB) sought public comment on the petition for reconsideration, and the comment cycles on the matter have been completed. Commission staff is carefully reviewing the record in the proceeding. I can assure you that we will take into consideration the issues and concerns presented by all stakeholders as the Commission makes every effort to conclude its review as quickly and equitably as possible.

I appreciate your interest in this matter. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

  
Ajit V. Pai

P.S. Thanks again for your letter, Congressman!  
I look forward to working with you on this  
and other FCC-related issues.



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

June 29, 2017

The Honorable Lou Barletta  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2049 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

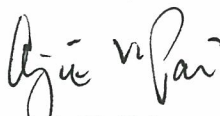
Dear Congressman Barletta:

Thank you for your letter in support of a petition for reconsideration filed by the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission and the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development, which requests a modification to the Connect American Fund (CAF) Phase II competitive bidding process rules. Your views are very important and will be entered into the record of the proceeding and considered as part of the Commission's review.

The Commission's Wireline Competition Bureau (WCB) sought public comment on the petition for reconsideration, and the comment cycles on the matter have been completed. Commission staff is carefully reviewing the record in the proceeding. I can assure you that we will take into consideration the issues and concerns presented by all stakeholders as the Commission makes every effort to conclude its review as quickly and equitably as possible.

I appreciate your interest in this matter. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

  
Ajit V. Pai

P.S. Thank you for your letter, Congressman! I look forward to working with you on this and other FCC-related matters.



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

June 29, 2017

The Honorable Glenn Thompson  
U.S. House of Representatives  
124 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

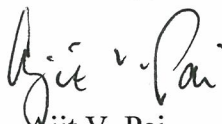
Dear Congressman Thompson:

Thank you for your letter in support of a petition for reconsideration filed by the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission and the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development, which requests a modification to the Connect American Fund (CAF) Phase II competitive bidding process rules. Your views are very important and will be entered into the record of the proceeding and considered as part of the Commission's review.

The Commission's Wireline Competition Bureau (WCB) sought public comment on the petition for reconsideration, and the comment cycles on the matter have been completed. Commission staff is carefully reviewing the record in the proceeding. I can assure you that we will take into consideration the issues and concerns presented by all stakeholders as the Commission makes every effort to conclude its review as quickly and equitably as possible.

I appreciate your interest in this matter. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

  
Ajit V. Pai

P.S. Thank you for your inquiry, Congressman!  
I look forward to working together on this and  
other FCC-related issues.





FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

June 29, 2017

The Honorable Patrick Meehan  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2305 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

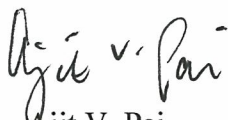
Dear Congressman Meehan:

Thank you for your letter in support of a petition for reconsideration filed by the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission and the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development, which requests a modification to the Connect American Fund (CAF) Phase II competitive bidding process rules. Your views are very important and will be entered into the record of the proceeding and considered as part of the Commission's review.

The Commission's Wireline Competition Bureau (WCB) sought public comment on the petition for reconsideration, and the comment cycles on the matter have been completed. Commission staff is carefully reviewing the record in the proceeding. I can assure you that we will take into consideration the issues and concerns presented by all stakeholders as the Commission makes every effort to conclude its review as quickly and equitably as possible.

I appreciate your interest in this matter. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

  
Ajit V. Pai

P.S. Thank you for weighing in, Congressman! I look forward to working with you on this and other FCC-related matters.



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

June 29, 2017

The Honorable Charlie Dent  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2082 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

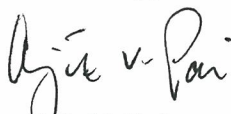
Dear Congressman Dent:

Thank you for your letter in support of a petition for reconsideration filed by the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission and the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development, which requests a modification to the Connect American Fund (CAF) Phase II competitive bidding process rules. Your views are very important and will be entered into the record of the proceeding and considered as part of the Commission's review.

The Commission's Wireline Competition Bureau (WCB) sought public comment on the petition for reconsideration, and the comment cycles on the matter have been completed. Commission staff is carefully reviewing the record in the proceeding. I can assure you that we will take into consideration the issues and concerns presented by all stakeholders as the Commission makes every effort to conclude its review as quickly and equitably as possible.

I appreciate your interest in this matter. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

  
Ajit V. Pai

P.S. Thank you for your letter, Congressman! I look forward to working with on this and other FCC-related matters.